



GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

January 2006

Editors: Judy Hardwick and Erin Gaston
 Judhrdwk@knology.net Erin_gaston@bellsouth.net
 (Send addresses corrections to us!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Thank you to each of you that have answered the call to assist with the fruit sales. This is a major fundraiser for the band program and we would not be successful without your willingness to help. Laura Mollere is working on a few more fundraisers to complete the year and we will need your help. Please consider donating a couple of hours to help our band program continue to excel.

Concert season is in full swing. District competition is just around the Corner and we will need volunteers to help in the lobby. We are also planning our Spring Trip to Myrtle Beach. More information about this can be found in the Director's Notes in this newsletter.

We will soon begin the process of selecting a nominating committee for officers for the 2005-2006 school year. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or serving as an officer next year, please contact me or one of the directors. More information about this is in this Newsletter. Although it is hard work, serving on the board is rewarding!!

Mark your calendar for the band parent meeting on January 23rd. We will be receiving information about Symphonic Camp, District Competition, All District/All State Band, Myrtle Beach, and the upcoming Pancake Breakfast. There will be sign up sheets for you to help make Symphonic Camp and District Competition successful.

Hope to see you there!!

Sincerely,
 Cherry Hovik
 President 2005/2006

Executive Board, 2005-06

Pres Cherry Hovik cjhovik@comcast.net
1st VP Jim Gatherer hsvjim@yahoo.com
2nd VP Laura Mollere lady4lsu@aol.com
Secretary: Rex Simmons rasimm@knology.net

Treasurers: Teresa Montgomery
tdmont@hiwaay.net; and Mary Setzer
TubaJrsMom@hotmail.com

Committees:

Marching Exposition: Jeff Brewer
jjgbrew@knology.net

Chaperones: Luann Holloway and Debbie Krenn
dlkrenn@comcast.net

Publicity: Kristi Fugit kristi.fugit@ngc.com

Color Guard: Alice Searcy searcy@hiwaay.net
 and Doris Lewis dslewis@knology.net

Stadium Setup: Jim Krenn
jdkrenn@comcast.net.

Spirit: Avi Swain swainjad@msn.com

Concerts: Sharon Keffer, Laura Hardy, Karen Allison
sharonkeffer@knology.net

Transportation: Paula Dickerhoff and Valerie Anderson
dickerhoff@knology.net

Fruit Sales: Jim and Sheila Kirsch
jckirsch@knology.net; Jan Baker, Manpower
 Scheduling, janqueenbee1@knology.net 650-0915

Script: Nelson and Karen Parker
parker23@knology.net

Trucks: Rick Cornelius RHC@knology.net

Raptors: Jerry and Liz Potter
jpotter@knology.net

Uniforms: Tiffeny Hubbard and Linda Craft
uniformfairy@msn.com

Historian: Susan Field fielddocs@knology.net

Ways and Means: TBA

Hospitality: Lynn Dowling and Rachel Rawls

Webmaster: Ron Lewis
webmaster@grissomband.org

Newsletter: Judy Hardwick and Erin Gaston
judhrdwk@knology.net;
erin_gaston@bellsouth.net

Bill Connell and Theo Vernon, Directors
 881-1075 (band room)

Directors' News January 2006

Rehearsal Schedule for 2nd semester:

Please be sure your students attend all of their scheduled after school rehearsals since they are required and part of their grade. **If a student has an unexcused absence from an after-school rehearsal their 9 weeks grade will be lowered 10 points, the equivalent one letter grade.** If a student misses a rehearsal that has been excused at least 2 weeks on advance or have been sick, they must make it up within a week when they return to school by staying after school and practicing in a practice room to make up the time.

Band Spring Calendar:

Please refer to the calendar on the Charms Site and the band website to be sure you know what is happening and for any updates. We publish this calendar each July for the upcoming school year so everyone can make plans. We appreciate everyone who checks the calendar and makes arrangements for your children to be here when we need them. Remember all scheduled rehearsals and performances are required as part of their grade. Our after school rehearsals are just an extension of the regular classroom.

www.charmsmusic.com

www.grissomband.org

Spring Trip Information:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ADD ON TO THIS NATIONAL COMPETITION. WE NEED TO HAVE AS MANY OF THE BAND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE SO GRISSOM BAND IS REPRESENTED AS A NATIONAL COMPETITOR ONCE AGAIN. PLEASE INFORM THE DIRECTORS ASAP WHETHER YOU CAN PERFORM OR NOT. WITH SO MANY STUDENTS "DECIDING" NOT TO PARTICIPATE, WE ARE THINKING ABOUT NOT TRAVELLING EVERY YEAR AND MAYBE DOING A TRIP EVERY TWO YEARS OR NOT AT ALL. IF THE APATHY CONTINUES TO BE AS STRONG AS IT SEEMS TO BE FOR TRAVELLING THEN WE CAN STAY HOME. A LOT LESS PROBLEMS AND CHEAPER TOO! We understand financial situations and academic concerns but there are many who just say they don't want to go and they are placing the directors and their band in a situation that is not easy to solve. We have auditions and are expected to perform with the instrumentation we have for each band. When we apply for these National Festivals, we as The Grissom High School Band are expected to bring a certain level of performance to each event we participate in. If we do not have everyone with us how can we sustain the level that is expected nationally from The Grissom High School Band? The easy fix is to just stay home and receive no more National Recognitions that Grissom has sustained for over 35 years. This is very disconcerting to see a trend like this beginning. I hope you feel the same way the directors do and have a solution.

The Spring Trip this year will be to Myrtle Beach, SC, March 29th – April 2nd. The dates have been on the calendar posted on Charms and the band's website since early July. We will leave Wednesday evening March 29th around 7pm and return Sunday evening April 2nd around 8pm. These are estimates at this time.

The following groups will perform in the Festival: Concert Band, Symphonic Band II, Symphonic Band I, "B" Jazz Band, "A" Jazz Band, and the Percussion Ensemble. An information sheet was passed out to the students on Thursday, November 17th with estimated costs, inclusions, meal information and activities. This information sheet is also posted on the Charms website under Handouts.

The payment schedule is as follows:

\$100.00 – Deposit / register for the trip – November 18th

\$150.00 – 2nd payment – January 4th

\$150.00 – 3rd payment – February 1st

Balance – 4th payment – March 1st

These may be adjusted as we get firm total numbers of students and adults.

4 in a room - \$475.00 per person

3 in a room - \$497.00 per person

2 in a room - \$540.00 per person

1 in a room - \$669.00

Travel insurance is available from Gateway for approx. \$16.00 per traveler. Application forms are available from the band office and must be taken care of individually. There will be a \$50.00 cancellation fee if you have paid your deposit and have backed out. If you pay then you should honor that commitment. That's just the right thing to do. We cannot lose money on something that we do not budget. We have already paid the travel company for your commitment with your deposit.

All-State District Honor Band Audition Information:

Registration deadline was Wednesday, December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day), the fee \$5 for each event. Auditions are January 27 (High School) and 28 (Junior High) at Sparkman High School. District Honor Band is February 24-25 and All-State Band is April 20-22. **PROM and All-State Band conflict again**, so **DO NOT TRYOUT FOR ALL-STATE BAND IF YOU INTEND TO GO TO PROM!!!** However, you certainly may tryout for District Honor Band. **ALSO, DO NOT TRYOUT FOR DISTRICT OR ALL-STATE BAND IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO GO FOR ANY REASON. IF YOU MAKE ONE OF THE BANDS AND DO NOT ATTEND THE CLINIC, YOUR BAND GRADE WILL LOWERED!!**

Symphonic/Concert Band Camp:

February 2-4 is our annual Symphonic/Concert Band Camp. This is one of the most anticipated events of the year for the directors and students. We bring in guest conductors for each band and clinicians for each instrument to work with the band students in rehearsals, master classes and performances. This event is financially supported through your band fees so please make sure you are up to date and "paid up" so we can pay our hired clinicians. The basic schedule is:

Thursday, February 2 – 3:30-8:30pm rehearsals and a catered dinner break.

Friday, February 3 - 8am – 9pm. Rehearsals during the day, master classes after school, Pot Luck Dinner (5:45ish), student/faculty recital 7:00ish.

Saturday, February 4 – 8:30am-4:00pm. Master classes, rehearsals, Parent/Guest Conductor question/answer session about college scholarship opportunities, etc., lunch on your own, concert at 2:00pm in dress clothes.

This event is one of the most educational opportunities we offer your children during the course of the school year and we expect them to be here on time and ready to go. These activities are part of their 9 weeks grade so it is required for all members of the Concert Band and both the Symphonic Bands. We the directors learn as much or more than the students during this three day event.

Pre-District Concert with Middle School Bands:

On February 6 and 7 the Grissom Bands and all three middle school bands will present some of their District Contest music in the Grissom auditorium beginning at 6:30pm each night. Symphonic Band I and Concert Band will perform on Monday February 6 and Symphonic Band II will perform on Tuesday February 7.

District Contest held at Grissom:

The Alabama Bandmasters Association's District 1 Festival will be held at Grissom on February 15-17. The times are still TBD but we plan on starting around 10:00am each day so we can finish earlier in the evenings. We will need both student and parent help at this event to help it run smooth and on time. As soon as we have a complete schedule probably in February, we will get it out to everyone and be calling for help. Thank you in advance!

All-State Jazz Band:

Congratulations to Chris Allison – Baritone Saxophone from Grissom for auditioning and making the Alabama 2006 All-State Jazz Band. He is one of 5 saxophones from the State to be accepted. He will participate in rehearsals at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on January 19-21 and perform at the Alabama Music Educators Convention on January 21st.

Grissom Winter Guard:

12 members of Grissom's Color Guard are participating in a Winter Guard this semester. They are practicing on Saturdays and will compete in several regional competitions this spring. We are very excited about this opportunity for the girls that will only make the summer/fall marching band color guard more advance and perform at a higher level. If any of you are interested in traveling to see them perform, we have posted the schedule here for you. Wish them luck when you see them.

Liz Klar, Carlie Bouldin, Ashley Oswell, Laura Searcy, Miranda Winter, Kati Fugit, Brittany Marcus, Jessica Haack, Lauren Lemieux, Rachel Tackett, Meagan Eversmeyer, and Heather Avery.

Vivace' Winter Guard Performance Schedule:

North Color Guard Field Day
Lawrence Co. High School, Lawrenceburg, TN
Sat only, 21 Jan 2006 (tentative performance time is
9:04 pm.)

Color Guard and Percussion Contest
Kennesaw Mountain High School, Kennesaw, GA
Sat. and Sun., 18-19 Mar 2006

Color Guard and Percussion Contest
Oak Grove High School, Bessemer, AL
Sat. only, 25 Feb 2006

Color Guard and Percussion Contest
Centennial High School, Franklin, TN
Sat. and Sun., 25-26 Mar 2006

Registration for 2006-2007 School Year

Your children will soon receive registration information for next year's classes. Naturally we encourage all our band students to continue band for all four years in high school. We have a 98% retention rate for our students who complete their first year in band. Though we are proud of this number, we would like to do even better retaining our students. Please take care while helping your child(ren) choose classes. Every year we have students that get overloaded and are miserable the entire year, not to mention the fact that the only things they do are study, and occasionally sleep and eat. The majority of universities and colleges do not recognize the 'academic diploma' nor do they know what constitutes the 'academic diploma.' Also be careful not to have your children take too many AP classes. Please remember, college credit classes are offered in college too, not just high school.

An area where we do need to improve is getting the 8th graders in middle school to continue with band in high school. We believe there are several problems here and those problems are being addressed. By the time you get this newsletter, we will have had a meeting with the 8th grade parents and their children to give them information that they need to know to make an intelligent choice about band in high school. Questions such as those concerning expenses, amount of time required outside of class and conflicts with

other activities will have been addressed at this meeting. Hopefully, we will have dispelled some fears that circulate around the neighborhoods.

You can help the band by being positive and truthful when people in the community ask you questions about band. There will always be those that have negative things to say about anything and anyone, especially if they felt they were 'wronged'. The remainder of us (which by the way is the VAST majority) must keep plugging away and keep reinforcing the positives. Your help is deeply appreciated.

Donations needed:

The band needs things from time to time that many of our parents have donated. We could use some of the following items and your donation will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Blank CDs

Business envelopes #10

Xerox paper for the copier

Colored pencils

CD cases

New, crisp 50 dollar bills

(preferably not counterfeit)

Volunteers are needed to work in the lobby during District Competition, February 15 - 17.

There are opportunities to work in the morning, afternoon and evening. We can find a time that's just right for you! If you've already signed up to help we will be confirming times with you.

If you'd like to help please sign up at the next band parent meeting or email me.

Thanks,

Sharon Keffer

Concert Chair

sharonkeffer@knology.net

It's Concert Time !

First let me thank all of the wonderful people who made the uniform work go so smoothly so far this year. The kids have worked hard and your help made it possible for them to look their best. For concert season, the GHS Band provides for the girls a formal black gown and pearls. For the boys, we provide the tuxedo, cummerbund, and bowtie. We will need to have another fitting night to get them all set for concert season.

Bring the dress shoes you intend to wear so that any alterations can be made correctly. Boys & girls should both have basic black dress shoes. The girls' shoes should have a closed toe. We will be fitting as follows:

Jan 26th (Thursday)

Sym I -- 4-5 pm

Sym II -- 5-6 pm

Concert -- will use their assigned marching uniform.

(anyone in Concert Band that did NOT march during football season, please call !)

If you have these times free, please call me to help us with the fittings. No sewing is involved and the more we have to help, the quicker and easier it will be. Thanks so much for your time.

Tiffeny Hubbard

Uniform Chair

880-3669

651-8606

NOMINATION CONSIDERATIONS

It is time to begin thinking about officer elections. Each year a nominating committee is appointed to select and present a slate of officers to the general membership. We are a large group and it is impossible for everyone to know everyone so we are asking for your suggestions.

If you have recommendations for someone to be considered by the nominating committee, we would like for you to submit them anonymously. You may recommend more than one person for a position. The nominating committee can only select one candidate for each position, but anyone can be nominated from the floor as a candidate for any position.

Please check the by-laws on the website for the description of each officer’s responsibilities. We’re sure you have an idea of someone that would be a great consideration for these positions! Just drop your completed forms in the treasurer’s box or you may mail them to GBPA PO Box 4335 Huntsville, AL 35815. Please mark the outside of the envelope “Attn: Nominating Committee”.

PRESIDENT - _____

1st Vice President - _____

2nd Vice President - _____

SECRETARY - _____

TREASURER (2 positions) –

We are also looking for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. It will take a couple of hours on just one evening. If you are available to help, please contact Cherry Hovik.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO TANGENT PRINTING FOR ALL THEIR SUPPORT WITH THIS NEWSLETTER!!

\$\$\$TREASURER'S BOX\$\$\$

Thanks to everyone for working so diligently to make sure fees and costs are up to date. We know it can be a bit confusing with the different fee structures depending on where your child is participating. Below is a "Schedule to Date" of the fees and costs incurred as of 01/10/06. Please be sure to deduct anything that does not pertain to your child (i.e. – instrument rentals, etc). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will get back to you as quickly as possible (as with lots of parents, we work outside the home and only do this for a hobby☺).

NOTE: The amounts reflected in the below chart DO NOT INCLUDE THE SPRING TRIP. Spring trip payment schedule follows chart under "Upcoming Payments".

	Marching	Concert Only	Guard Only	Jazz Only
Dues	\$ 500.00	\$445.00	\$370.00	\$150.00
Shoes (if needed)	\$ 32.00	N/A	\$27.00	N/A
Marietta Competition	\$ 25.00	N/A	\$25.00	N/A
Summer Rental (percussion & students renting band owned instruments)	\$ 45.00	\$45.00	x	\$45.00
Fall Rental (percussion & students renting band owned instruments)	\$ 45.00	\$45.00	x	\$45.00
	(\$100 Due By 12/01/05)	(\$100 Due By 12/01/05)	(\$100 Due By 12/01/05)	
Total due through 12/01/05	\$747.00	\$635.00	**\$ 522.00	\$240.00
Full TOTAL due shown above should be paid as of 12/01/05 EXCEPT -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	-0-	\$ -
	(\$100 Due By 03/01/06)	(\$100 Due By 03/01/06)	**Does not include wind suit, special required items, etc.	

REMINDER – ALL dues / payments must be current for a student to participate in any trip or activity outside regular school hours (football games, competitions, trips, etc.)

UPCOMING PAYMENTS -	11/18/05	First payment for Spring Trip should have been made by this date.
	12/01/05	Dues \$100 (or equivalent credit)
	01/01/06	Second payment for Spring Trip (\$150 min)
	02/01/06	Third payment for Spring Trip (\$150 min)
	03/01/06	Dues \$100 (or equivalent credit)
	03/01/06	Balance due for Spring Trip**

[**The directors are working on a final cost. One of the factors with the final cost is the number of students planning to participate, the number of buses we will need, etc. Thank you.]

All checks should be made to **Grissom Band Parent's Association** or **GBPA**. Make sure your **student's name** and **what the payment is for** written on your check for proper credit. You may drop payments into treasurer's box in the band room outside the director's office (NO CASH PLEASE); or you may mail checks to –

Grissom Band Parent's Association
PO Box 4335
Huntsville, AL 35815

REMINDER – There is a \$30 fee for checks returned by your band. Payment of the check amount plus the return check charge must be made by cashier's check, money order or cash. Cash payments must be hand delivered directly to one of the treasurers. Cashier's checks and money orders can be dropped in the treasurer's box in the band room or mailed to the post office box. Partial payments cannot be accepted. We regret that we have had to institute this policy, but the cost of bank fees, collection fees, etc. for these returned items can no longer be covered by the band fund. Thank you for your understanding and assistance in insuring funds are available when your check is presented for payment.

Mary Setzer
Co-Treasurer
Student Accounts
880-2862
TubaJrsMom@hotmail.com

Teresa Montgomery
Co- Treasurer
Accounts Payable
881-9387
tdmont@hiwaay.net

PANCAKE BREAKFAST!!!

Our first Pancake Breakfasts have been a huge success! A special thanks to all who have helped for all their hard work. Our next pancake breakfast is Mar 4, and the trombones and baritones will be wait staff! We DO NOT want to send tickets home with each student and have them accountable for the tickets/money. But, we need parents who are willing to sell tickets in order to continue for this to be a successful fundraiser. If you would like to help sell tickets to this event, please contact any of the board members. Tickets will also be available at the Band Parent Meetings.

Scrip News

Happy New Year! Thanks to everyone who purchased Scrip during the holidays – we had some great orders the last couple of months! ALL of the items we ordered came in right on time – NO BACKORDERS at all!!!

Here are the dates for the next few Scrip deadlines (for ordering):

Jan 23 (band parent meeting)
 Feb 7 (this follows Sym Camp)
 Feb 27 (Band Parent Meeting)

These are dates for ordering, but we may order in between these dates if we get sufficient requests. Some of you are taking orders from friends and/or at work on a regular basis – what a great idea!

Thank you!

Nelson and Karen Parker

Scrip Coordinators


parker23@knology.net 883-4622

Fruit Sale News!! Yes - we have fruit! After having to cancel our first sale because the fruit wasn't ripe, the two December sales went as planned. The fruit has been very good this year although the larger grapefruit sizes are in short supply. Sales have been good although are seeing fewer grapefruit sales this year which appears to be a result of the interaction it has with different medications such as cholesterol medicines. Our January sale is scheduled for 20-21 Jan with two more sales in February and March. Contact Jan Baker if you would like to earn FairShare credit by working some hours during the sale. This is a great way to earn money for your child's account and the people working have a lot of fun as well. If you can't work, please support the band by encouraging neighbors, friends, and co-workers to buy their fruit. It is better fruit than you find in the stores and frequently our prices are better as well.

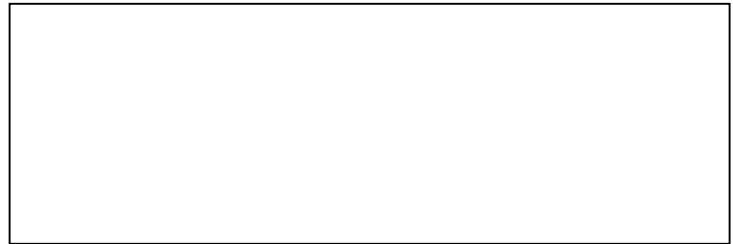
We look forward to seeing you come by the truck!

GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL
GRISSOM BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 4335
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35815

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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See inside and check
the website for
Upcoming News!



GHS TIGER BAND NEWSLETTER